

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/838,420

Examiner

Robert Stevens

Applicant(s)

BAUCHOT ET AL.

Art Unit

2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 1/19/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-9 and 12-23 (renumbered as 1-20).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20070404
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Art Unit: 2162

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Office has withdrawn all rejections raised in the Non-Final Rejection mailed 10/16/2006.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Stephen Walder, Jr. on 4/4/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

3. Amend claims 1, 13, 15 and 21, as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method, in a computer system, for processing user defined Boolean variables in a multi-dimensional electronic spreadsheet comprising a plurality of cells identified by a cell address along each dimension, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a model ~~of a real-world condition~~ by configuring a memory of the computer system to represent a multi-dimensional electronic spreadsheet model ~~of the real-world condition~~;

providing, in the computer system, a user options table data structure identifying one or more user options that are defined as Boolean variables, wherein the user options table data structure comprises a record for each user option of the one or more user options, and wherein each record stores an identifier associated with a corresponding user option for the record;

providing a user interface, in the computer system, through which the one or more user options are defined, wherein a status of the one or more user options is set via the user interface to either a first Boolean variable state corresponding to a "True" state or a second Boolean variable state corresponding to a "False" state;

referencing a selected user option of the one or more user options in one or a plurality of cells of the multi-dimensional electronic spreadsheet by including an identifier associated with the selected user option in content of the one or a plurality of cells;

receiving an input to the user interface, via a peripheral device coupled to the computing system, the input specifying a status setting of the selected user option;

reconfiguring the memory of the computer system to represent a modified model ~~of the real-world condition~~ based on the input received via the user interface;

determining a value of each of the one or plurality of cells based on the status of the selected user option as either being the first Boolean variable state or the second Boolean variable state, as specified by the input to the user interface; and

providing an output of the modified model via an output device of the computer system based on the determined value of each of the one or plurality of cells, wherein the output of the modified model provides information to a user regarding a scenario ~~of the~~

~~real-world condition~~ in which the selected user option has a status setting corresponding to the received input.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the output device is a display device, the model of ~~the real-world condition~~ is a financial model, and wherein the output of the modified model is provided to a user via the display device.

15. (Currently amended) A computing system for processing user defined Boolean variables in a multi-dimensional electronic spreadsheet comprising a plurality of cells identified by a cell address along each dimension, the computing system comprising:

a processor;

a storage device coupled to the processor, wherein the storage device provides a user options table data structure identifying one or more user options that are defined as Boolean variables, wherein the user options table data structure comprises a record for each user option of the one or more user options, and wherein each record stores an identifier associated with a corresponding user option for the record; and

a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory contains instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to:

provide a model of ~~a real-world condition~~ by configuring the memory of the computer system to represent a multi-dimensional electronic spreadsheet model of ~~the real-world condition~~;

provide a user interface through which the one or more user options are defined, wherein a status of the one or more user options is set via the user interface to either a first Boolean variable state corresponding to a "True" state or a second Boolean variable state corresponding to a "False" state;

reference a selected user option of the one or more user options in one or a plurality of cells of the multi-dimensional electronic spreadsheet by including an identifier associated with the selected user option in content of the one or a plurality of cells;

receive an input to the user interface, via a peripheral device coupled to the computing system, the input specifying a status setting of the selected user option;
reconfigure the memory of the computer system to represent a modified model of ~~the real-world condition~~ based on the input received via the user interface;
determine a value of each of the one or plurality of cells based on the status of the selected user option as either being the first Boolean variable state or the second Boolean variable state, as specified by the input to the user interface; and
provide an output of the modified model via an output device of the computer system based on the determined value of each of the one or plurality of cells, wherein the output of the modified model provides information to a user regarding a scenario of ~~the real-world condition~~ in which the selected user option has a status setting corresponding to the received input.

21. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising a tangible computer useable medium having a computer readable program, wherein the computer readable program, when executed on a computing device, causes the computing device to:

provide a model of ~~a real-world condition~~ by configuring a memory of the computer system to represent a multi-dimensional electronic spreadsheet model of ~~the real-world condition~~;

provide a user options table data structure identifying one or more user options that are defined as Boolean variables, wherein the user options table data structure comprises a record for each user option of the one or more user options, and wherein each record stores an identifier associated with a corresponding user option for the record; and

provide a user interface through which the one or more user options are defined, wherein a status of the one or more user options is set via the user interface to either a

first Boolean variable state corresponding to a "True" state or a second Boolean variable state corresponding to a "False" state;

reference a selected user option of the one or more user options in one or a plurality of cells of the multi-dimensional electronic spreadsheet by including an identifier associated with the selected user option in content of the one or a plurality of cells;

receive an input to the user interface, via a peripheral device coupled to the computing system, the input specifying a status setting of the selected user option;

reconfigure the memory of the computer system to represent a modified model of ~~the real-world condition~~ based on the input received via the user interface;

determine a value of each of the one or plurality of cells based on the status of the selected user option as either being the first Boolean variable state or the second Boolean variable state, as specified by the input to the user interface; and

provide an output of the modified model via an output device of the computer system based on the determined value of each of the one or plurality of cells, wherein the output of the modified model provides information to a user regarding a scenario ~~of the real-world condition~~ in which the selected user option has a status setting corresponding to the received input.


4. After a thorough search, and in light of the prior art of record, claims 1-5, 7-9 and 12-23 (renumbered as 1-20) are allowed.

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Stevens whose telephone number is (571) 272-4102. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:00 - 2:30.

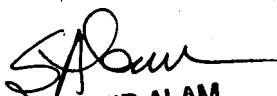
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Robert Stevens
Examiner
Art Unit 2162

April 4, 2007



SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER